

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

TROOP FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me echo the remarks of the majority leader on the question of the troop funding bill. It appears as if it is now in a form that is satisfactory to the President and will, in fact, get the necessary funding to the troops for the mission through the end of September.

I share the view of the majority leader that we ought to wrap this matter up at the earliest possible time, as soon as we get it from the House of Representatives, which could even be later today. So I think we are in the same place on wrapping this bill up and getting it down to the President for signature at the earliest possible time.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and the first half of the time under the control of the Republicans and the second half of the time under the control of the majority.

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Senator SALAZAR and I asked the leadership for 30 minutes this morning to discuss Iraq. I thank the leadership for giving us that time.

I ask unanimous consent that the time be allocated in the following way: 5 minutes each for, first, Senator PRYOR, then Senator BENNETT, then Senator CASEY, then Senator GREGG, then Senator ALEXANDER, and finally Senator SALAZAR. If the Chair would let each Senator know when 5 minutes has expired, I would appreciate that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

IRAQ

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, let me say that I am very honored today to join my friends, Senator SALAZAR of Colorado and Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee, in their efforts to try to restore some nonpartisanship to our discussion on Iraq. I feel very strongly

that we should never have a party-line vote on Iraq. We have 160,000 troops on the ground. It is just too important an issue for one party to take one side, the other party to take another side, and for the White House to do one thing and Congress to do another. In fact, we talk often in this Chamber about how there needs to be a political solution inside Baghdad. The truth is, there needs to be a political resolution inside of Washington, DC, when it comes to Iraq.

I am honored to lend my name today to this effort by Senator SALAZAR and Senator ALEXANDER.

One thing I have noticed in the last several weeks and months—maybe in the last year—when it comes to Iraq is that there is a lot of rhetoric. To be honest, that is not helpful. It is not bringing our troops home earlier. It is not providing more stability inside Iraq. It is not allowing Iraq to function as a sovereign nation. We need to tone down the rhetoric and roll up our sleeves and work through this together.

I also understand that Senator BENNETT, Senator GREGG, and Senator CASEY have all joined in this effort as well. It is an honor for me to be part of this bipartisan solution.

One of the things we are going to emphasize here is Iraqi accountability. We know that is something which needs to happen inside Iraq. The Iraqis need to take responsibility for their own country. The Iraq Study Group talked about this a lot in the pages of their report, where on page after page they talk about what they believe needs to happen inside Iraq.

So this bill which Senators SALAZAR and ALEXANDER will be filing in the coming weeks talks about diplomatic efforts, about securing Iraq's borders, promotes economic commerce and trade inside Iraq, political support, and it talks about a multilateral diplomatic effort. It talks about milestones and also about redeploying troops. After talking to so many people in my State and around the country, I think that is where America wants us to be. They want a stable Iraq.

It is a little bit like what Colin Powell said: It is the Pottery Barn principle; that is, if you break it, you own it. Well, we went into Iraq, and we have a lot of responsibility there. I think most Americans understand that. They don't like what they see on the front pages of the papers every day or on the evening news, but they do know we have a responsibility inside Iraq, and they want us, in the Senate, in the House, and also at the White House, to show leadership. This is a time for leadership, a time for us to come together on these principles which the Iraq Study Group laid out—not that every one of them is exactly right, but they laid out a lot of principles that I believe many people in this Chamber can rally around and hold on to. If we implement these and make that our national policy, then I think we can

get better results on Iraq than we have had in the past.

I know General Petraeus has mentioned that we cannot rely on a purely military solution inside Iraq. I think he is exactly right; I think he is 100 percent right on that. It needs to be a multifronted effort—security, political, economic, and diplomatic. We need to do a lot to help Iraq get back on its feet and become a functioning nation again.

Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in this effort. I invite other colleagues to look at the Salazar legislation and consider joining it as well in the coming weeks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SALAZAR). The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am honored to join with my friends in this particular effort. I congratulate the occupant of the chair, Senator SALAZAR, and Senator ALEXANDER for putting this forward. We are seeing people come on board in equal numbers on both sides of the aisle to demonstrate that this is a bipartisan effort.

Some might say this is an attack on the President's plan. I do not see it in that fashion at all. I think this is a demonstration of bipartisan support for an American plan, to see what we can do to get a more stable Iraq.

When I go to Iraq and talk to the experts, they tell me the war is being fought on two fronts: It is being fought in Iraq and in Washington, DC. Al-Qaida has declared Iraq as the front line of their war on the "great satan," which to them is the United States of America. The battle being fought in Washington, DC, has to do with America's resolve in standing up to al-Qaida. The word that is going out from Osama bin Laden in his audiotapes, and the letters that are being circulated, is that if we can just hold on long enough, the battle will be resolved in Washington, DC, as the Americans decide they no longer want to continue the fight.

By demonstrating in a bipartisan fashion that the Senators of the United States are willing to talk about long-term commitments and long-term solutions, we are making our contribution to winning the war in Washington. General Petraeus has been charged with the security portion of the war in Iraq. The Iraqi Parliament and the Iraqi Government themselves must deal with the political problems in Iraq. We must not let them down by partisan bickering in Washington that encourages al-Qaida to believe America will walk away from its responsibilities.

This piece of legislation is not about name calling or blaming for past mistakes. There is no question there have been past mistakes. We will let the historians sort that out. Our responsibility is to do today what is needed to bring about an eventual proper resolution.

In every war America has been in, there have been times of darkness,